



Fourteenth Annual Celebrating Leadership in Education Awards Ceremony

Honoring the:

- New Hampshire Blue Ribbon Schools
- New Hampshire Recipients of the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching
- New Hampshire Teacher of the Year Semi-Finalists, Finalists and the New Hampshire Teacher of the Year

December 17, 2015

Every day a New Hampshire teacher makes a difference in the life of a child. Every year the NH Department of Education honors outstanding educators who make their communities, profession, and the world a better place.

Program

Welcome Reception

Emcee - Madeline Mullen, Senior
Portsmouth High School

Welcome – Virginia M. Barry, Ph.D.
Commissioner of Education

Remarks by Elizabeth Lichtenberg
2015 NH Teacher of the Year

Dinner

NH Blue Ribbon Schools

NH Presidential Award for Excellence in
Mathematics and Science Teaching

SMART Technologies
Teaching Excellence Award

Remarks by Jean-Marie Beauchemin
Hannaford Supermarkets

NH Teacher of the Year Semi-Finalists,
Finalists, and Teacher of the Year

Remarks by Ashley Preston
2016 NH Teacher of the Year

Close

Message from Virginia M. Barry, Ph.D. New Hampshire's Commissioner of Education

Tonight, at the fourteenth Annual Celebrating Leadership in Education Awards Ceremony, we honor educators who are working to provide a quality education to each student in New Hampshire. While all classroom teachers should be recognized on a daily basis, the New Hampshire Department of Education annually honors exemplary educators through various recognition programs. There are thousands of excellent educators deserving of our recognition and gratitude. I want to thank you and so many other incredible New Hampshire teachers for the positive role they play in improving our children's lives and our state's future.

These awards and recognitions build community awareness about our state's finest schools and districts and show case the extraordinary talent in our state. We are proud to be able to recognize their superior ability to inspire students with a love of learning, their excellent teaching and best practices, their professional leadership, their engagement with families and the community, and their commitment to their profession and students.

Promotion of educator recognition awards goes a long way towards keeping New Hampshire's teachers engaged and excited about education. Properly guided, awards programs can reach out to stakeholders and strengthen positive messages about the teaching profession. By recognizing the importance of outstanding educators we hope to encourage more people to consider a career in education and retain talented people. The future prosperity of our state is dependent on our educational system and I am pleased to say that as I travel throughout the state and visit countless schools, I continue to be proud of what we accomplish in New Hampshire. Nothing touches more lives, or gives more promise to the future than education.

We are working towards designing a seamless statewide learning system that provides all of our students with a personalized, competency-based and integrated learning experience that enables them to develop the knowledge and skills, when and where they need them. If students are to succeed, they must be inspired to believe in themselves. With appropriate support, students are able to be actively engaged in their learning, and can begin to see the connection between what they learn today and who they want to become tomorrow. As I have visited schools across New Hampshire I have been encouraged by the innovation, personalization and the multiple paths to

learning that I have witnessed. I have been surrounded by adults who care very much about their students and witnessed the growth of students under that caring guidance. Schools across New Hampshire are demonstrating that all students can achieve to high levels.

The real stories here are the teachers; they are the true heroes that focus on our state's future. These educators recognize the critical connection between successful students and educator excellence, and give their time and ideas to improve our educational system. We are proud to acknowledge the vision and dedication that these New Hampshire educators bring to their profession. Each one of these outstanding individuals has made an impact on the lives of their students and the profession of teaching. The Department of Education would like to applaud the outstanding achievements of these recipients.

Elizabeth Lichtenberg

2015 New Hampshire Teacher of the Year

Liz Lichtenberg has been a part of the Alton community for six years. Liz works each day to create an environment where her students feel an ownership over their own learning, make connections, and become motivated because they can see how what they are learning and doing makes a difference in their community. Her generous and optimistic demeanor welcomes students into the learning environment where she prides herself on providing individual guidance and motivation, nurturing each student's needs in order to be successful. Mrs. Lichtenberg takes great pride in ensuring the students are having fun, but requires they take risks as she makes every effort to facilitate growth and change by working closely with both students and parents. Her efforts in the classroom extend beyond the classroom doors as she connects her community to her classroom.

Blue Ribbon Schools Program

The Blue Ribbon Schools Program honors public and private elementary, middle, and high schools that are either high performing or have improved student achievement to high levels, especially among disadvantaged students. Each year since 1982, the U.S. Department of Education has sought out schools where students attain and maintain high academic goals.

The US Secretary of Education invites each state's Chief State School Officer/Commissioner to nominate schools for recognition as National Blue Ribbon Schools. Based on state data, the Commissioner certifies that the submitted schools meet one of two performance categories. The first category is "Exemplary High Performing," in which schools are recognized among their state's highest performing schools, as measured by state assessments or nationally-normed tests. The second category is "Exemplary Improving," in which schools that have at least 40 percent of their students from disadvantaged backgrounds demonstrate the most progress in improving student achievement levels as measured by state assessments or nationally-normed tests.

About the Recipients

Canaan Elementary School

Amanda Isabelle, Principal

Tucked between the Connecticut River and the peaks of Mt. Cardigan, the Canaan Elementary School is located in a rural setting, serving students in grades PK-4 from the communities of Canaan, Dorchester, Grafton, and Orange, NH. They are a family- and community-oriented school with a marvelous blend of veteran and new staff, all working together to support each other and to ensure success for each student academically, socially, emotionally, and physically. With a strong focus on respect, responsibility, and safety, CES students are fully engaged participants in their learning, and everyone is proud of the accomplishments they have made over the past several years, as shown by their consistently high scores in the NH State assessments. Teachers at CES have worked diligently to align curriculum with Common Core Standards and have designed and implemented formative assessments that help discover gaps in student learning so they may be addressed. Students at CES love being tested, so they can show us what they know! They are proud of each step in their progress, celebrating not only their own growth, but the growth of each of their peers. Teachers have also become strong school and district leaders, and have opened up their classrooms to each other, seeking feedback that will help them grow as well. Meeting as grade-level teams on a regular basis, the staff has truly become a professional learning community. Parents and community members support the school in many ways, and everyone at CES is proud of the relationships they have built.

Gilmanton School

Carol Locke, Principal

Gilmanton School sits beside a rural highway in the center of a small town in the Lakes Region of New Hampshire. Gilmanton takes pride in its rural character, steeped in historical landmarks, one-room schoolhouses, stately colonial homes, and stone-walled enclosures. In fact, many students are descendants of the original town residents, and they have strong links to the local farm industry. Gilmanton School has a welcoming atmosphere built around a culture of collaboration and shared leadership. This present-day culture is a shift from ten years ago when low test scores and poor morale were the norm. The professional staff worked hard to analyze the root cause of poor student performance and they became actively involved in aligning curriculum and using data to focus on students instructional needs. Personalization has become the heart of Gilmanton Schools instructional philosophy. Differentiation is central to this instructional approach, and grade-level teams meet frequently to discuss student progress. Each grade is assigned daily literacy and math blocks, during which students are placed in small groups for skill-based instruction. All available personnel work with students of varying abilities during these blocks, reinforcing school-wide inclusion. Mastery of skills is the ultimate goal for each student. Gilmanton residents support the school by making budgetary decisions that have a positive effect on the education of the children. Community members enrich school programs by sharing expertise and time with the children. Student test scores have steadily improved in this culture of collaboration and personalization. More important, students are learning.

Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching

The PAEMST is administered by the National Science Foundation (NSF) on behalf of the White House. Established by Congress in 1983, the Presidential Awards are the Nation's highest honors for teachers of mathematics and science. The Awards recognizes outstanding K-12 teachers for their contributions in the classroom and to their profession as well as acknowledge educators who are models in both their classrooms and in their communities. In addition this award provides positive examples for pupils and peers alike.

The teachers receiving these awards are recognized for greatly improving their students' understanding in science and mathematics, for exemplary teaching, and for demonstrating educational goals that help them maintain positions of professional leadership. The goal of the program is to encourage highly capable individuals to enter and remain in the teaching field.

The competition alternates each year between teachers of grades K-6 and grades 7-12. After an initial selection process at the State level, a national panel of distinguished scientists, mathematicians, and educators recommends teachers to receive a national PAEMST. Winners at the national level receive a \$10,000 award from NSF, as well as a trip for two to Washington, D.C., for a week of celebratory events and professional development activities. National winners are usually announced in the Spring.

About the NH Recipients– Science

Robin Ellwood

School: Rye Junior High School

Teaching Experience: 22 years

Robin's eighth grade science curriculum includes topics in biology, earth science, and physical science. She strives to have students learn science by being actively engaged in authentic, and inquiry-based, applications of the scientific concepts learned in the classroom. Students design and implement investigations, participate in engineering challenges, and work with community members to address local issues. Robin's passion for improving science education, and her particular interest in improving inquiry-based science experiences, and achievement outcomes from these experiences, led her to pursue a doctorate degree from the University of New Hampshire.

The lesson featured in Robin's video submission revolved around electronics and directly addressed student misconceptions about how the spin direction of a motor with an attached propeller can be reversed using a double-pole-double-throw switch within an electric circuit. The lesson had three parts: Part One required students to review and demonstrate their understanding of electric current and energy transfer through a circuit. Part Two challenged students to determine the necessary wiring configuration for a double-pole-double-throw (DPDT) switch within a circuit that would

allow the spin direction of the attached motor and propeller to be reversed. Part Three required students to disassemble a DPDT switch to determine the internal workings of the switch and to work together to determine the pathway electric current would take through the switch. Students understanding of electric current advanced from thinking that flipping a switch caused the current pathway to be reversed through the entire circuit, to understanding that the wiring across the switch redirected the current pathway through the switch in order to create the desired effect of reversing motor spin.

Misconceptions were corrected and students learned that electric current can be controlled to produce a desired effect. This knowledge establishes a foundation from which students can expand their understanding of electric circuits and how to control electric current in more complex circuits that might include multiple resistors and loads. Such knowledge has practical life applications as well as implications for future electronics and engineering classes and careers.

Patrick Kaplo

School: Windham High School

Teaching Experience: 12 years

Building a new physics program from scratch was Patrick Kaplo's task when Windham High School opened its doors in 2009. After only six years, nearly 80% of all students will take physics before graduating and the WHS program boasts the highest AP Physics enrollment in New Hampshire.

Mr. Kaplo drives engagement in his classes by asking his students to build six foot tall trebuchets, ride CO₂-powered fire extinguisher rocket carts to study Newton's Laws, use high frame rate cameras and motion capture software to analyze projectiles, fire vacuum-powered ping-pong balls over 400 MPH, and visualize wave phenomena in an 8-foot long fire tube, among other things. His 200 YouTube physics videos extend his contact time with students by three hours per day.

Pat transitioned into physics teaching after serving in the US Navy's nuclear power program for six years and working in industry for five. His work experiences and educational background in Mechanical Engineering from Worcester Polytechnic Institute have steered his professional course toward STEM project work as a means of further deepening engagement for his students. As the STEM coordinator at WHS, Pat initiated a high-

altitude ballooning club called “jagSAT” which has launched science payloads to the edge of space for data collection and brought back spectacular photographs of the curvature of the Earth. Recent connections with Dartmouth College’s arctic studies program have initiated student-led development of an underwater robot to facilitate climate change field research in Greenland.

Pat has championed cultural exchange in his community by hosting two, year-long foreign exchange students from Yemen and India as well as completing a Fulbright appointment to Hyderabad, India with his family in 2008.

He is the recipient of the Milken Educator Award for New Hampshire in 2009. Pat lives in Bedford and coaches Little League baseball and FIRST Lego League robotics.

New Hampshire Teacher of the Year

Each year since 1952, New Hampshire schools have taken part in the State and National Teacher of the Year Program. Educators are selected from any New Hampshire state-approved or accredited school, pre-kindergarten through grade 12, if they are planning to continue in an active teaching status. Anyone can nominate an outstanding teacher. The purpose of the program is to select a teacher who is worthy of speaking for and energizing the teaching profession, and representing the positive contributions of all teachers statewide. The Teacher of the Year serves as a leader and ambassador for all the outstanding teachers devoted to the highest level of student learning. He or she should:

- inspire students of all backgrounds and abilities to learn;
- have the respect and admiration of students, parents, and colleagues;
- play an active role in the community as well as in the school; and
- be poised, articulate, and possess the energy to work under a taxing schedule.

In New Hampshire, Hannaford Supermarkets is proud to partner with the Department of Education to help sponsor the New Hampshire Teacher of the Year (NH TOY) program. "Hannaford is proud to recognize and celebrate the teaching profession and to honor the valued role teachers play in our communities," said NH TOY Committee Member and Hannaford Retail Operations Support Specialist, Jean-Marie Beauchemin.

“Congratulations to all the teachers being recognized tonight and thank you to all New Hampshire teachers for their commitment to their profession and their advocacy for their students.”

It is the mission of the National Teacher of the Year Program to recognize and honor the contributions of the American classroom teacher. The National Teacher of the Year Program is a project of the Council of Chief State School Officers in partnership with the Voya Foundation and People to People Ambassador Programs. It is the oldest and most prestigious honors program to focus public attention on excellence in teaching. For the past thirteen years SMART Technologies has been honored to support U.S. State Teacher of the Year award programs through its Teaching Excellence Award program (TEA Program). SMART Technologies donates \$10,000 in classroom technology products and services.

About the Recipient

Ashley Preston

Parker Varney Elementary School, Manchester

Experience: Nine Years

Ashley Preston has been teaching for nine years, all of them in the Manchester School District. The selection committee recognized her ability to help her students be curious, critical thinkers and problem solvers. She provides them with a classroom environment that facilitates developmentally appropriate learning while fostering individual strengths.

Her principal, Amy Allen, says, “Ms. Preston is a natural educator. She has found her passion in teaching. She teaches her students to strive for excellence, to love reading, and to care about one another. She teaches all of us at Parker Varney that we are here for the students, to love what you do, to not be afraid to speak up for what is right, that the work we do makes a difference and that our students matter.”

Ashley looks at the whole child and sees the gains they made and then looks at ways to help them continue to grow and make progress. She believes that preschool matters and early childhood education is important and takes every opportunity to show what her students are capable of

despite how young they are. She says she feels fortunate that she can be their voice, help them gain the recognition they deserve and prove their learning is valuable no matter what it looks like from the outside.

2016 NH Teacher of the Year Semi-Finalists

- Bridgette Doucette-Howell, RSEC Academy, Amherst, Social Studies
- Alan Magnusson, Hampton Academy, Science
- Sarah Rosenbleeth, Newfields Elementary School, Fourth Grade

2016 NH Teacher of the Year Finalists

- Laura LaVallee, Portsmouth High School, English
- Elizabeth Lounder, Winchester School, English
- Christopher Schoff, Portsmouth High School, Mathematics
- Jennifer Thompson, Unity Elementary School, Language Arts & Social Studies

*The New Hampshire Department of Education
wishes to thank Hannaford Supermarkets for their continued support
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And SMART Technologies for their generous donation of classroom
technology products and services.



The mission of the Department of Education is to provide educational leadership and services that promote equal educational opportunities and quality practices and programs that enable New Hampshire residents to become fully productive members of society.